

Amendment to the Claims

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of claims:

- 1-33. (Canceled)
34. (Currently amended) A composition comprising:
dead *E. coli* comprising at least one modified allergen whose amino acid sequence is identical to that of ~~differs from that of~~ a wild-type allergen ~~that occurs in nature, except that the modified allergen has at least one mutation in an IgE site~~ such that the modified allergen has a reduced ability to bind to or cross-link IgE as compared with the wild-type allergen, wherein the modified allergen is encapsulated inside the dead *E. coli*; and
a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
35. (Original) The composition of claim 34, wherein the wild-type allergen is found in nature in foods, venoms, or latex.
36. (Original) The composition of claim 34, wherein the wild-type allergen is found in nature in a food selected from the group consisting of peanuts, milk, eggs, seafood, nuts, dairy products, and fruit.
37. (Withdrawn) The composition of claim 34, wherein the wild-type allergen is found in nature in bee venom.
38. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 34, wherein the wild-type allergen is an Ara h 1, Ara h 2, or Ara h 3 protein with an amino acid sequence that is encoded by the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:2, or SEQ ID NO:3.
39. (Currently amended) The composition of claim 34, wherein the sequence of the modified allergen differs from the sequence of the wild-type allergen by one or more amino acid deletions, substitutions or additions within an IgE binding site of the wild-type ~~peanut~~ allergen.

40. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 39, wherein the sequence of the modified allergen lacks an IgE binding site of the wild-type allergen sequence.
41. (Original) The composition of claim 34, wherein the modified allergen is located in the cytoplasm of the dead *E. coli*.
42. (Original) The composition of claim 34, wherein the modified allergen is located in the periplasm of the dead *E. coli*.
43. (Original) The composition of claim 34, wherein the modified allergen cannot be detected by antibody binding without disrupting the dead *E. coli*.
44. (Original) The composition of claim 34, wherein the composition is formulated for rectal administration.
45. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 34, wherein the dead *E. coli* was heat-killed.
46. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 34, wherein the dead *E. coli* was killed by chemical treatment.
47. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 44, wherein the dead *E. coli* was killed using a chemical selected from the group consisting of iodine, bleach, ozone, and alcohol.
48. (New) The composition of claim 34, wherein the composition is formulated for mucosal administration.
49. (New) The composition of claim 34, wherein the composition is formulated for oral administration.